

APR 25 2007

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. With this amendment, please amend claims 1 and 23, and add new claims 27-29.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A coin validator ~~including~~ comprising:
a coin insertion opening;
a coin return opening;
structure defining a coin path from said coin insertion opening to said coin return opening, said coin path having a first side and a second side, said coin path further including a return region thereof that extends upstream from said coin return opening, wherein said structure includes a housing defining said first side of said coin path and a cover defining said second side of said coin path, said cover coupled to said housing at two or more mounting points;
means to detect and identify an object in a detection region of said coin path;
gate means in said coin path between such detection region and said return region responsive to identification of said object to either divert said object from said coin path or constrain it to traverse said coin path to said coin return opening; and
means actuatable to move said cover, at said mounting points, in a direction away from said first side of said coin path ~~at said mounting points~~ so as to widen substantially the whole of said coin path including said return region, whereby to facilitate clearance of jams in said coin path.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Presented) A coin validator according to claim 1 wherein said cover is a door.
4. (Original) A coin validator according to claim 3, wherein said means to detect and identify an object includes a pair of detect elements respectively mounted in said housing and in said cover means.

5. (Previously Presented) A coin validator according to claim 1, wherein said cover is such that, on its movement to widen said coin path, the whole of said path opens to form a chamber in which a coin at any location in said coin path above said return region can drop to said return region.

6. (Previously Presented) A coin validator according to claim 5, wherein said cover includes a rail defining a floor of an upper part of said coin path past said detection means.

7. (Previously Presented) A coin validator according to claim 1 wherein said cover remains substantially parallel to said housing as it moves to widen said coin path.

8. (Previously Presented) A coin validator according to claim 7 wherein said two or more mounting points comprise two or more parallel slots and respective pins co-operatively engageable with said slots..

9. (Original) A coin validator according to claim 8 wherein there are four slot/pin pairs.

10. (Previously Presented) A coin validator according to claim 8, wherein said slots are formed as bent slots including first slot portions oriented to accurately define an air gap width at said detection means whereby to latch said cover to hold said air gap substantially fixed, and second slot portions in which said cover moves to widen substantially the whole of said coin path.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) A coin validator according to claim 10 wherein movement of part of said cover includes a first segment of movement in said first slot portions and a second segment of movement in said second slot portion, and wherein means is provided such that detection means is disabled for said second segment of movement.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) A coin validator including:

a coin insertion opening;

a coin return opening;

structure defining a coin path from said coin insertion opening to said coin return opening, said coin path having a first side and a second side, wherein said structure includes a housing defining said first side of said coin path and a cover defining said second side of said coin path coupled to said housing at two or more mounting points;

means to detect and identify an object in a detection region of said coin path, which means includes a pair of spaced opposed detect elements and an air gap in said coin path between said detect elements;

gate means in said coin path responsive to identification of said object to either divert said object from said coin path or constrain it to traverse said coin path to said coin return opening;

wherein said cover is actuatable to move said cover in a direction away from said first side of said coin path at said mounting points so as to widen at least a portion of said coin path including said air gap, whereby to facilitate clearance of jams in said coin path;

wherein said two or more mounting points comprise two or more parallel slots and respective pins co-operatively engageable with said slots; and

wherein said slots are formed as bent slots including first slot portions oriented to accurately define an air gap width at detection means whereby to latch said cover to hold said air gap substantially fixed.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) A coin validator according to claim 14 wherein said cover is a door.

17. (Previously Presented) A coin validator according to claim 14, wherein said detect elements are respectively mounted in said housing and in said cover .

18. (Previously Presented) A coin validator according to claim 14 wherein said cover includes a rail defining a floor of an upper part of said coin path past said detection means.

19. (Previously Presented) A coin validator according to claim 14 wherein said cover remains substantially parallel to said housing as it moves to widen said coin path.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) A coin validator according to claim 14 wherein there are four slot/pin pairs.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A coin validator according to claim 14 wherein said movement of said cover includes a first segment of movement in said ~~front~~ first slot portions and a second segment of movement such that said detection means is disabled for said second segment of movement.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) A coin validator according to claim 1, wherein said means to detect and identify an object includes a pair of detect elements respectively mounted in said housing and in said cover means.

26. (Previously Presented) A coin validator according to claim 9, wherein said slots are formed as bent slots including first slot portions oriented to accurately define an air gap width at said detection means whereby to latch said cover to hold said air gap substantially fixed, and second slot portions in which said cover moves to widen substantially the whole of said coin path.

27. (New) A coin validator according to claim 1, wherein there are four or more of said mounting points.

28. (New) A coin validator according to claim 4, wherein there are four or more of said mounting points.

29. (New) A coin validator according to claim 6, wherein there are four or more of said mounting points.